

Genl. M. S. Smith Esq.

New Orleans July 7. 1857

D. Sir:

Yours of the 16th ult. I have this moment received, and thank you for the promptness of your answer. In reply I state, that the claim referred to is in your Office or that of J. B. Shaw Esq. I first handed this claim with that of another for similar services, (which you proposed) to Thomas W. Ward Esq. and by whom they were presented in October 1849. His letter dated 8th Oct 1849, which I sent you with Com. Moore's letter, shows you proposed ^{of them} one for the towing of his ships to sea, and that the other, ^{the one now the subject of this letter} was returned to me for the certificate of Commodore Moore. Hearing I might not meet with Commodore Moore in time, I took the deposition of Capt. Cox who was an officer under Moore, & who was knowing to the whole transaction, proving that the service was performed, and that \$1000. was to have been paid by Moore - attached to Cox's deposition was an order from Com. Moore directing Capt. Cox to take the S^d Scho. to ~~Campeche~~ and return her over to an Officer as directed - also the deposition of Mr. Clark & also that of a merchant of this City, who was going to the transaction, and assisted in clearing the scho. from the custom house here with regular American papers, to prevent her interception by Mexican privateers - On the face of the claim, was the deposition of Mr. M. Danbold, the bearer of dispatches, taken before Judge Jackson of this City in March 1844, stating the facts of the engagement by Com. M. of the scho. and the price \$1000. in which Moore paid Clark in his presence \$200. leaving \$800. due, the amount now claimed. These papers I enclosed to the joint address of you & Mr. J. B. Shaw in October or November last. Afterward to wit: on the 31st of Decr. last, I met with Commodore Moore here, & had the interview between him & Mr. Clark detailed in my letter, of yours, ^{which} now before me, is an answer. I also enclosed to you Mr. W. Ward's letter, stating that the claim was all right & only wanted the certificate of Com. Moore ^{for it} to pass - if you will read it you will see it. I have been thus particular in stating every thing, for your satisfaction, and the papers have never been withdrawn by any one, since last sent to you & Mr. Shaw - no one was authorized to do so - I hope the return mail will bring the old mass certificate, as he is very poor, and needs it much - when he performed the service he was rich & done it when no one else would for 2 years - the little vessel carried to sea at his own eminent risk, Col. Sammis & Col. Wilson's men & put them on board vessels outside the jurisdiction of the United States, for which he was to have been paid some \$1600 - as the certificates of these officers showed - but these papers were burned in his house a short time before his own failure